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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The Tito-Cominform rift and the growing dispute between the Yugoslav and Bulgarian Communist Parties over the Macedonian question are beginning to have a profound effect on the population of Yugoslav Macedonia. These people have a traditional Bulgarian outlook and coupled with the memories of the Serb misrule, they have been influenced by the recent Bulgarian claims of Macedonian hegemony, especially as they realize Bulgaria has the support of the Cominform states behind it. Marshal Tito is taking the strongest measures including deportations and mass arrests to deal with the dangerous situation. As a result, a considerable number of Macedonians have fled to Bulgaria.
2. Tito's one advantage is the war in Greece which is enough to justify his keeping large military forces in Macedonia and taking the strictest of security measures without which revolt would have been sure. At the same time, the Cominform and Bulgarians dare not take more active measures in this area since a revolution and fighting in Yugoslavia-Macedonia would imperil the Greek Rebel Army's position.
3. Tito recently sent General Svetozar (Tempo) Vukmanovic on a tour of Yugoslav Macedonia to use his influence in strengthening the hand of the Macedonian Communist Party against Bulgarian sympathizers. Vukmanovic was particularly active in the eastern part of Macedonia up to the Bulgarian frontier and showed a great interest in NOF. He encouraged the recent rapprochement between NOF and the Rebel Army since a continuation of the Greek War was one of the best guarantees against internal trouble in Yugoslav Macedonia. Vukmanovic allegedly told close friends in Bitolj that if they really believed in Tito it was their duty to strike at all manifestations of pro-Bulgarian sympathies and at the same time help the Rebel Army. According to Vukmanovic, if the Anglo-Americans succeeded in establishing themselves on the southern Yugoslav frontier, Macedonia was doomed and would speedily be swallowed up by Bulgaria.

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